



Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

Issue 117: 10 July 2025

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National news



10 Year Plan

Last week, just ahead of the NHS's 77th anniversary on 5 July, the Government released *Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England*. Key documents are available below:

- [Open letter to staff](#)
- [Executive summary](#)
- [Full plan \(PDF\)](#)
- [10 Year Health Plan \(easy read\)](#)

Following this, [Dr Penny Dash's review](#) on patient safety was published yesterday, with nine recommendations to simplify quality and safety systems and strengthen accountability.

HPV Vaccination and Cervical Screening – Protecting Against Cervical Cancer

Uneven HPV [vaccine uptake in some areas](#) is increasing the risk of cervical cancer. UKHSA is urging parents to return their children's HPV vaccination consent forms promptly. Young adults up to age 25 who missed their school vaccinations are encouraged to speak to their GP about catch-up options.

Even if vaccinated, attending cervical screening when invited remains essential. Combined, vaccination and screening offer the best protection.

The Department of Health and Social Care has announced plans to [offer home-testing kits](#) to those who haven't come forward for cervical screening, to improve access and uptake.

Call for evidence: Men's Health Strategy for England

The government is seeking views from the public, health and social care professionals, academics, employers, and stakeholder organisations to help shape a new Men's Health Strategy for England.

This is an opportunity to share insights and experiences to inform future policy and improve men's health outcomes.

View the strategy here: [Men's Health Strategy for England: call for evidence](#)

The call for evidence closes at 11:59pm on Thursday 17 July

New cancer treatment updates

- [Trojan horse' therapy approved](#): ~1,500 multiple myeloma patients per year may now access belantamab mafodotin via the NHS.

- **Liver cancer breakthrough:** NHS patients to be first in Europe to receive *histotripsy*, a non-invasive treatment, starting at Addenbrooke's Hospital this summer.
- **Pancreatic cancer push:** Hundreds of GP practices will review records to offer urgent tests for those most at risk of this highly lethal cancer.

Cervical Screening non-responder reports

GP practices can now use the Cervical Screening Management System (CSMS) to identify and contact patients **overdue for cervical screening**. Reports include:

- Those 6+ months overdue
- Ceased due to age but still eligible (under 65)

See the CSMS user guide for details. For support, visit **CSMS help**.

New 'Your guide to NHS cervical screening' leaflet

A new leaflet is now included with cervical screening invitation letters and available online, with signposting in digital invites. **Cervical screening - leaflet for women considering screening**

Developed with stakeholder and patient input, it improves readability and accessibility. It reflects the updated screening intervals from 1 July, with thirty translations available and a BSL video coming soon.

Services should stop using the old Helping you decide leaflet and switch to the new version immediately.

Measles cases rising – Urgent reminder to vaccinate before summer travel

Measles outbreaks continue across several regions in England, with 109 confirmed cases in April and 86 so far in May. Most cases are in unvaccinated children under ten, with nearly half reported in London.

With summer travel approaching, there is concern about a further surge as families visit countries also facing outbreaks. European measles cases have already doubled compared to last year — the highest levels since 1997.

Vaccination remains the best protection. Please ensure children are up to date with their MMR vaccines before travelling.

[More info here](#)

Place updates

'Against Breast Cancer' - Evaluation workshops

The Oxfordshire based organisation '[Against Cancer Now](#)', in association with [Tonibobandlou CIC](#), are looking for women to help further evaluate a new visual resource, designed to support those facing a mastectomy and breast reconstruction decisions. They are seeking women from three groups:

- those considering risk-reducing surgery for a genetic mutation (e.g. BRCA1/2).
- those who have had mastectomy & reconstruction, without a genetic mutation.
- those who have had mastectomy & reconstruction, with a genetic mutation.

Your feedback on imagery and lived-experience stories will help refine BRAVE's design and accessibility.

Where: Abingdon

When: Thursday 10 & Thursday 24 July, 4–7pm

Contact: info@tonibobandlou.com

Training and events

Sarcoma Awareness Month – New cancer key resource

July is Sarcoma Awareness Month. The latest Cancer Key focuses on assessing soft tissue and bony lumps and recognising when to be concerned in primary care.

Sarcomas, which include both soft tissue and bone types, are rare but often diagnosed late. One in three patients are diagnosed more than six months after their first consultation, with many tumours reaching 10 cm before detection.

There is currently no accurate staging data, but early diagnosis is critical to improving outcomes. [This resource](#) supports primary care teams in raising awareness, increasing vigilance, and helping reduce delays in diagnosis.

Cancer Quality of Life survey – Share & learn webinar

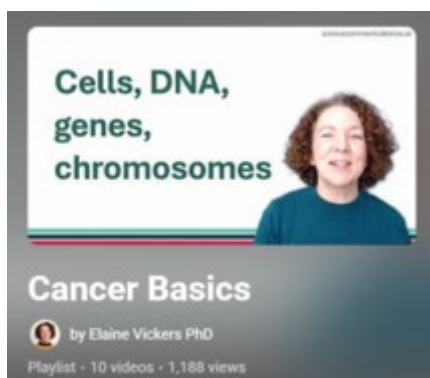
Join the Living with and Beyond Cancer team for a webinar on how Cancer Alliances are using Quality of Life (QoL) Survey data to highlight key issues, address inequalities, and improve services.

Date: 24 July 2025

Time: 11am – 12.30pm

[Book your place here](#) : A Teams link will be sent to registered attendees before the event. Registration closes a few days prior.

Cancer Basics video series – Dr Elaine Vickers



This free video series is ideal for professionals seeking to better understand cancer biology.

Dr Vickers covers key topics such as DNA, mutations, and the science behind cancer treatments.

Access the full [series online here](#)

Macmillan education and training

Macmillan is offering the fully funded [Evidencing Work Based Learning](#) module starting in October, and opportunities to join their [Education Forum](#).

Self-led and online [HOPE programmes](#) are also available.

Listen to their [Cancer Professionals Podcast](#) for wellbeing insights via all major streaming platforms.

Vinca alkaloid administration guidance

A new summary from the Specialist Pharmacy Service outlines best practices for safe preparation and administration of vinca alkaloids, which must never be given intrathecally. [View guidance summary here.](#)

NHS Trusts are expected to meet minimum safety requirements.

The [archived NPSA guidance](#) remains available for reference.

Implementing the People Promise in General Practice

Thursday 17 July, 12.30–1.30pm

Webinar to give an overview of the People Promise and how it can be implemented locally to support colleagues across general practice.

Details of how to [join here](#)

Patient facing resources

Heatwave awareness

With hot weather due once again, we want to make sure people at higher risk of illness due to the sun are aware and take action. Please share or repost our message below.

If you require other sizes or materials please get in touch at:

tvca.bulletin@nhs.net

Social post text:

Stay safe in the heat – especially if you've had or are having cancer treatment. Some chemotherapy drugs can make your skin more sensitive to the sun, even years after treatment. Check with your cancer team if you need to take extra care.

Top tips in a heatwave:

- * Stay in the shade (11am–3pm)
- * Wear loose, cool clothing and SPF 30+
- * Drink plenty of water
- * Keep your home cool

Find out more: <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/.../taking-care-on-holiday>

UK Health Security Agency

HOT WEATHER

Look out for people who might struggle to keep cool

Older people, people with long term health conditions and young children may need help keeping cool.

Like and follow us on our social media channels:

[FaceBook](#)

[BlueSky](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Nextdoor](#)

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